



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Veterans Affairs Committee
February 17, 2015**

- Proposed SB-116 - AN ACT INCREASING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS.
- Proposed SB-202 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE MOTOR VEHICLE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS.
- Proposed SB - 523 - AN ACT WAIVING INTEREST AND PENALTIES FOR DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.
- Proposed HB-5231 - AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.
- Proposed HB - 5331 - AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS.
- Proposed HB - 5334 - AN ACT PROVIDING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO VETERANS.
- Proposed HB - 5953 - AN ACT EXPANDING THE MUNICIPAL OPTION TO PROVIDE A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR ALL VETERANS.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) urges lawmakers to carefully consider the impact of the above-referenced proposals on local revenues and the delivery of education, public health and safety services, particularly in light of continued state and local fiscal constraints.

Although we certainly value the sacrifice and contribution that veterans have made in protecting our country and our freedom, we are concerned that these proposals will reduce already scarce revenues or require towns to shift more of the burden onto homeowners and businesses.

Given the ongoing fiscal challenges facing municipalities, lawmakers must refrain from mandating property tax exemptions that undermine the ability of towns to provide critical programs and services to residents without shifting more of the burden onto the backs of other property taxpayers.